

Westlake Landfill Update Points – October 22, 2013

- The latest round of groundwater sample collection was completed during the week of October 7. Because of the federal government shutdown, MDNR staff provided substitute assistance in collecting EPA's split samples during this activity.
- Lab analysis of this sampling—the third of EPA's four planned seasonal groundwater sampling events at the site—should be available in four to six weeks. EPA plans to share those results with the public online and at a public meeting that is yet to be scheduled.
- EPA will mobilize to Westlake Landfill during the week of October 28 to provide daily continuing oversight of Gamma Cone Penetration Testing (GCPT) activity, which will be performed by Republic Services' engineering contractor.
- This GCPT activity will ultimately test for radiation levels in the ground at multiple locations in the area of the landfill where Republic Services proposes to build an isolation barrier.
- Republic has hired a contractor to clear vegetation and install a road to provide access to the project area, enabling the GCPT activity to occur. This phase of the project is estimated to take 10 to 15 days to complete.
- Republic's engineering contractor is expected to take approximately 12 to 15 days to complete the actual GCPT screening activity.
- There may be some overlapping of the vegetation clearing, road installing and GCPT screening activities. Barring unforeseen delays (such as for weather, etc.), all of these activities could be completed by Thanksgiving.
- EPA will have two representatives on site at all times to oversee this work. All personnel working on the project will be trained in appropriate health and safety work protocols.
- Results of the GCPT activity will be shared with the public when they are finalized. The exact date for this is unknown at this time.